The Action Plan contains the following points:

1. States should undertake a campaign for Review of BPL/AAY lists, to eliminate ghost ration cards.
2. Strict action should be taken against the guilty to ensure leakage free distribution of foodgrains. In this respect information asked for under clause 8 & 9 of PDS Control Order, may also be sent.
3. For sake of transparency involvement of elected PRI members in distribution of foodgrains be ensured. As far as possible, FPS licences be given to SHGs, gram panchayats, cooperatives, etc.
4. BPL/AAY lists should be displayed on all FPSs.
5. District-wise and FPS-wise allocation of foodgrains should be put up on websites and other prominent places, for public scrutiny.
6. Wherever possible, door step delivery of foodgrains should be ensured by States, instead of letting private transporters/wholesalers to transport goods.
7. Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level and fixed dates of distribution to ration card holders should be ensured.
8. Training of members of FPS level Vigilance Committees shuld be ensured. Proposals for funding training can be sent to the GOI.
9. Computerisation of TPDS operations be undertaken.

In addition, the Government has also taken steps for introducing electronic transfer of funds to FCI and issued instructions for display of Banners/Boards on the wind shield as well as rear end of the truck/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating name of State Government, destination, commodity and Agent's name.

Difference between production cost and retail price of iodised salt

†2618. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that iodised salt being used in the country by common man fall under the list of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference between the production cost and the retail price of the said salt;

(d) if so, the extent of the said difference;

(e) whether such a huge margin of profit being earned by the producers is in the interest of consumers; and

(f) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) The item 'Salt' is considered to be foodsuff and as such it is an essential commodity under the Essential Act, 1955.

(c) and (d) There is a difference between the production cost and retail price of iodized salt. The production cost of iodized salt varies from place to place depending on the production source, quality and variety of Iodized salt. Iodized salt is available in three varieties viz. non-refined varieties of crystal (loose), powered (crushed and packeted in poly packs) and refined/vacuum evaporated iodized salt (in poly packs). At production source the average production cost of iodized salt of Crystal (loose) is about Rs. 0.75 per kg, of powdered and packeted iodized salt is Rs. 1.15 per kg, and of refined iodized salt is Rs. 2.50 per kg. The average retail price works out to Rs. 3.50 per kg. for Crystal (loose) iodized salt, Rs. 4.25 per kg for Powder (packeted) iodized salt and Rs. 7.00 per kg to Rs. 9.00 per kg for Refined/Vacuum iodized salt. There prices have been worked out taking an average distance of 1600 kms from the production source. Retail prices of iodized salt will be less in the salt production source and adjoining areas and will be higher if it is far away from the production source.

(e) and (f) The retail prices of iodized salt are dependent upon the transportation cost (rail/road freight), handling charges at various levels, transit/storage loss, godown/storage charges and margins of wholesaler, sub-wholesaler, and retailer.